



## State of Utah

### Department of Natural Resources

ROBERT L. MORGAN  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Oil, Gas & Mining


LOWELL P. BRAXTON  
*Division Director*

OLENE S. WALKER  
*Governor*

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE  
*Lieutenant Governor*

August 3, 2004

TO: File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Bluebell Oil Company, Pebble Puppy 1 and 2, S/047/050, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 21, 2004  
Time of Inspection: About 3:45 to 4:30 p.m.  
Conditions: Partly cloudy, 70's  
Participants: Pete Sokolosky, Vernal BLM; Paul Baker, DOGM

#### **Purpose of Inspection:**

The site has been inactive for about eight years, and the Bureau of Land Management is requiring reclamation. No permit fees have been received by the Division in at least four years. I needed to visit the site to be familiar with the area and the disturbances.

#### **Getting to the site:**

We got to the site from SR 149 just east of where it crosses the Green River. I do not recommend this route: it is a very rough road that goes through at least two canyons with exposed slick rock. There is a much better road that starts on US 40 on the east side of the Green River. I did not keep track of mileages and turns on this road, but it is not hard to follow the map.

#### **Observations:**

This area was originally permitted as two separate small mines (S/047/049 and S/047/050), but the two were combined because of the proximity.

Disturbances consist primarily of gravel piles, dams and ponds within some of the small drainages, some pipe and electrical conduit, roads, and a small highwall (see photo attachment).

Page 2 of 2

S/047/050

Inspection Date: May 21, 2004; Report Date: August 3, 2004

Vegetation in the disturbed areas is mostly cheatgrass, but some snakeweed and a few other natives have invaded. Cheatgrass does very well in disturbed areas with good drainage.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

On July 27, 2004, the Division received notification that the BLM had received funding to reclaim the southernmost of the two disturbed areas. This is the area with the most serious environmental and public safety concerns, such as the highwall and dams across drainages. Once reclamation is completed, the operator will be billed for the work.

The operator has not paid permit fees, so authorization to mine is suspended. Since both of the disturbed areas have been inactive for more than five years, the Division has the authority to require reclamation. The Division should consider this option. Once the BLM has mobilized equipment into the area, it would be a good opportunity to complete the entire job and grade and seed the northern site.

PBB:jb

cc: Robert Covington, Operator  
Pete Sokolosky, Vernal BLM

O:\M047-Uintah\S0470050-Bluebell\inspections\ins-05212004.doc



## ATTACHMENT

### Photographs

S/047/050, Pebble Puppy 1 and 2, Bluebell Oil Company

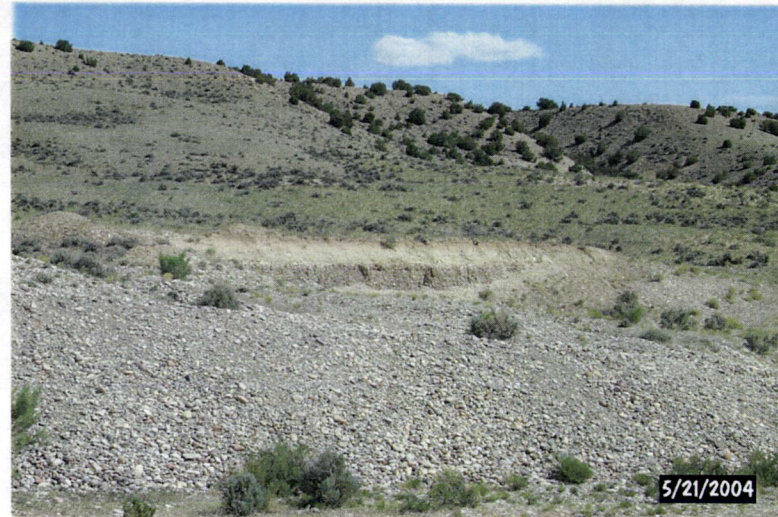
Inspection Dated: March 21, 2004; Report Dated: August 3, 2004



**Photo 1. Part of the disturbance in the northern area.**



**Photo 2. Another view of some of the disturbance in the northern area. Nearly all vegetation in the foreground is cheatgrass.**



**Photo 3. The center portion of this picture shows the highwall in the southern area.**



**Photo 4. Gravel dams in the southern area.**





**Photo 5. Another view of one of the dams.**



**Photo 6. Road extending from the disturbed area toward the Green River. Dinosaur National Monument is on the other side of the river.**